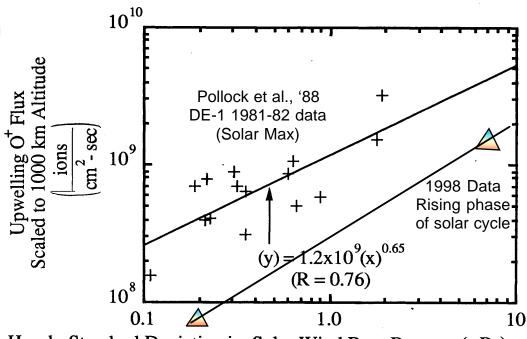
## **Background**



- Plasma fountain known to increase with solar activity (11 year cycle) and with magnetospheric activity (episodic).
- Suspected of responding directly to solar wind pressure/variability:
- Fluxes generally lower in 1998 than in 1981
- Known solar cycle effect.
- Larger fluxes likely as approach maximum solar activity ~2001.



Hourly Standard Deviation in Solar Wind Ram Pressure (nPa)